Volumes In the Series


http://derridaseminars.org/volumes.html
"In this seminar from 2001 and 2002, Derrida explores the persistent association of bestiality or animality with sovereignty and continues his deconstruction of the traditional determinations of the human. The beast and the sovereign are connected, he contends, because neither animals nor kings are subject to the law—the sovereign stands above it, while the beast falls outside it from below. He then traces this association through an astonishing array of texts, including La Fontaine’s fable “The Wolf and the Lamb,” Hobbes’s biblical sea monster in *Leviathan*, D. H. Lawrence’s poem “Snake,” Machiavelli’s Prince with its elaborate comparison of princes and foxes, a historical account of Louis XIV attending an elephant autopsy, and Rousseau’s evocation of werewolves in *The Social Contract*. Deleuze, Lacan, and Agamben also come into critical play as Derrida focuses in on questions of force, right, justice, and philosophical interpretations of the limits between man and animal."

--- Jacket copy, *The Beast and the Sovereign, Volume I*


"In the second part of this seminar, originally presented in 2002–3, Derrida focuses on what at first appear to be two markedly different texts: Heidegger’s *The Fundamental Concepts of Metaphysics* and Daniel Defoe’s classic novel *Robinson Crusoe*. Shuttling back and forth between the two works, Derrida investigates a number of key concepts and provides ingenious interpretations of both texts. Sovereignty remains his primary concern as he reflects on the political history of the dominion of humans over animals in Defoe’s England and on diverse readings of Robinson Crusoe through the centuries and, in particular, from Heidegger’s Germany in the 1930s. Solitude provides another connection between the two books as Derrida links the indivisible uniqueness of a king with Crusoe’s solitary plight."
--Jacket copy, The Beast and the Sovereign, Volume II